Consensus Plan for Electronic Data Exchange Standards for Electric Deregulation in The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Prepared for: **The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission**and **The Pilot Implementation Committee**

Prepared by: **The Electronic Data Exchange Working Group**April 15, 1998

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Introduction	3
Executive Summary	4
1. Business Relationships	6
Customers will:	
EGSs will:	
EDCs will:	
2. Electronic Data Interchange Concepts and UIG Standard Formats	
What is EDI?	8
What is ASC X12?	9
What is the UIG?	9
What Transaction Sets will be used?	Q
814 General Request, Response or Confirmation	
810 Invoice - Utility/Energy Service Provider	
820 Payment Order/Remittance Advice	
867 Product Transfer and Resale Report	
248 Account Assignment/Inquiry and Service/Status	11
997 Functional Acknowledgment	
Glossary of EDI Terms	12
3. Data Interchange Transactions	14
EDI Transactions	
A. Customer/EGS Agreement Scenarios:	14
Customer Contacts EDC to Initiate EGS Selection	
Customer Contacts EGS to Initiate EGS Selection	
Customer Contacts EDC to Cancel Contract with current EGS	
4. Customer Contacts EGS to Cancel Contract	
5. EGS Cancels Customer Contract	
6. Customer Contacts New EGS to Switch EGSs	17
7. Customer Contacts EDC to Switch EGSs	17
8. Customer Relocates within service territory	
9. Customer Data Changes from EDC	
10. Customer Data Changes from EGS	
11. EGS Volunteers Customer	
12. EGS Request for Historical Usage and Interval Load Data	19
B. Customer Billing Scenarios:	
1. Customer receives 1 bill	
2. Customer receives 2 bills	
3. Customer Finals	
C. Customer Payment Remittance Scenarios:	20
D. Historical Usage Requests by EGS:	20
E. Historical Interval Load Data Requests by EGS:	20

F. EGS Charge Write-Off:	20
G. Non-EDI Data Requirements	20
H. EDI Transaction Timelines	22
I. Conclusion	22
4. Electronic Transmission	23
Proposed Standard Approach	23
Value Added Network	23
Internet File Transfer	23
5. Computer Operations Considerations	25
Scheduling	
File Handling	25
Error Handling	26
Recovery	26
6. Transaction Testing Requirements	27
7. EDEWG Continuation	
8. Standards Change and Version Control Process	30
Introduction	
Priority Classifications	
Emergency Priority	
High Priority	
Low Priority	31
Notification Requirements	
Emergency Priority	32
High and Low Priority Annualis A FDI Pagend Formats (see document file Annualis A 41508 DOC)	
Appendix A – EDI Record Formats (see document file AppendixA41598.DOC)	
Appendix B – EDI Testing Process	
Annendix C = Non-EDI Record Formats	35

Introduction

The Electronic Data Exchange Working Group (EDEWG), a subcommittee of the Pilot Implementation Committee (PIC), was formed in November 1997 to reach consensus on a standard set of data transactions that meets the needs of Electric Distribution Companies (EDCs) and Electric Generation Supplier (EGSs). The group, chaired by Annunciata Marino, a Commission staff member, is comprised of representatives from the EDCs and EGSs.

The goals of the EDEWG were threefold:

- ♦ To reach consensus on a standard set of data transactions that meet the needs of the EDCs and EGSs.
- ♦ To formulate uniform transaction rules for each standard transaction.
- **♦** To provide data exchange procedures needed to ensure compliance with customer protection regulations.

We believe the recommendations set forth in this proposal reflect the high level of commitment and energy expended by the EDCs and EGSs who devoted substantial amounts of time and resources in bringing this phase of the development of electronic standards to consensus. However, there are certain areas which consensus could not be reached and are highlighted within this document. Furthermore, recognizing that the processes outlined in this proposal are new to all stakeholders, the EDEWG is unanimous in recommending that the Commission support a continuing effort.

The members of EDEWG ask the Commission to approve the electronic data transfer and exchange protocols as recommended within this document. The organizations below, having direct input in the creation of this document, respectfully request that the Commission:

- Review this report and incorporate the recommendations contained herein in rule makings relative to the deregulation of the electrical market in Pennsylvania.
- ♦ Order all EDCs and EGSs to implement this consensus plan for electronic data exchange standards, with exceptions as noted herein, for implementation of Retail Choice.
- Formally establishes by order the Electronic Data Exchange Working Group.

The following organizations participating in the creation of this report and have reached consensus:

PECO Energy
GPU Energy
DTE Edison America
PP&L, Inc.
Allegheny Power
Green Mountain Energy Resources
PP&L EnergyPlus
Utility Industry Group
Edison Electric Institute
Enron Energy Services
Connectiv Energy

Con Edison Solutions UGI Utilities, Inc. Pacificorp Power Marketing

Supported by:

Office of Consumer Advocate Pennsylvania Power Company
Duquesne Light Company Pennsylvania Electric Association

Executive Summary

Background

The Electronic Data Exchange Working Group (EDEWG), a subcommittee of the Pilot Implementation Committee (PIC), was formed in November 1997 to reach consensus on a standard set of data transactions that meets the needs of Electric Distribution Companies (EDCs) and Electric Generation Supplier (EGSs). The EDEWG is chaired by a Commission staff member, and is comprised of representatives from each of the EDCs and EGSs. The EDEWG undertook the responsibility for formulating transaction rules for each standard transaction while considering customer protection and convenience.

The initial task of the EDEWG was to review the technologies and services available for transferring large quantities of data and to make recommendations which would meet minimally acceptable technical criteria and ensure the timely, efficient, and effective implementation of retail choice in Pennsylvania. Additionally, pilot program experiences and market participant comments submitted to the Pennsylvania PUC were reviewed and incorporated into the recommendation of the EDEWG.

Recommendation

In an effort to reach consensus on these issues, the EDEWG examined the anticipated business relationships between customers, EGSs and EDCs for retail competition. The EDEWG then developed a set of data transactions that correspond to these relationships and the rules that govern use of the transactions.

The EDEWG is recommending the use of electronic information exchanges in the restructured electric industry. The group's proposal focuses on Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) as the primary format in which data will be transmitted. The group also will recommend specific file formats for non-EDI data exchanges. The EDEWG further recommends that these transaction rules apply to each EDC and all licensed EGSs planning to participate in the phase in of deregulation in Pennsylvania starting later this year.

The consensus recommendations provide:

- a standard set of electronic commerce standards desired by the EGSs and EDCs,
- a methodology to provide a balance of the consumer privacy and protection.
- ♦ an electronic solution which maybe implemented within the constraints of the current and varied infrastructures within each EDC and EGS.

Requested Action by the Commission

The members of EDEWG ask the Commission to approve the electronic data transfer and exchange protocols as recommended within this document, which can be summarized as follows:

- Review this report and incorporate the recommendations contained herein in rule makings relative to the deregulation of the electrical market in Pennsylvania.
- ♦ Order all EDCs and EGSs to implement this consensus plan for electronic data exchange standards, with exceptions as noted herein, for implementation of Retail Choice.
- ♦ Formally establishes by order the Electronic Data Exchange Working Group.

Basis for Recommending EDI

The use of precisely defined, EDI transactions and file formats is appealing to EGSs and EDCs alike in that it gives all participants in the burgeoning electric marketplace a common language and format for the data exchanges necessary to implement retail choice on a large scale. Electronic data exchange allows a tremendous amount of information to be transmitted at higher speeds and lower costs than can be achieved via paper or phone. It also provides the Commission, and any other interested enforcement agency, a more easily navigated audit path.

When the phase-in of retail choice begins in Pennsylvania in January of 1999, the amount of customers requesting switches will likely dwarf the volumes seen during the pilot. For this reason, it is essential that market participants (EDCs and EGSs) be required to use electronic data exchange technologies to share information. Between 1999 and 2001, the market will see millions of customer switch transactions, alone. Hand written, paper transactions are too slow, too cumbersome, and too costly to warehouse. By limiting the number of manual connection points, the opportunity to introduce errors is limited. If the initial transaction is the only point in the customer enrollment process where data is entered by hand, the possibility of introducing errors is greatly reduced.

This consensus recommendation achieves a balance of consumer, EGS and EDC needs and establishes standard transactions that can be tested and made operational by September 1, 1998. The nationally accepted standard transactions described within this document meet immediate and long-term needs while remaining flexible enough to accommodate the expected changes required as the competitive market matures.

Conclusion

Each EDC listed herein has committed to implementing these standards to provide a level playing field for competing EGSs and to ensure the consumer a high level of convenience and the protection of their rights.

1. Business Relationships

These relationships as described herein are intended to serve as a general guide for the purpose of establishing information standards. In order to establish a set of mutually agreed upon standards, there first must be a mutual understanding of the business relationships to which the standards will be applied in accordance with the Commission's orders. The following represents the current understanding of these relationships.

It should be noted that in an effort to remain consistent with the Utility Industry Group's terminology, and for the purposes of this document, the term enrollment is used for the transaction involving a customer signing up or canceling generation services from an EGS.

Customers will:

- ♦ Give authorization for enrollment
- Give authorization for the release of historical usage information
- Be responsible for evaluating and securing services from EGS.
- ♦ Be responsible for notifying the EGS and/or EDC for any concerns regarding energy supply.

EGSs will:

- ♦ Obtain authorization from customers for customer enrollment and release of historical usage information.
- ♦ Exchange information electronically with EDC for enrollment, changes or discontinuance of service, etc.
- Render bills for service when a customer selects separate bills.
- Provide the EDC with the necessary billing information when the customer selects one bill.
- Resolve customer payment problems for relevant EGS charges.
- Maintain records on customer payments and fees.
- Participate in electronic systems testing as defined herein.
- Provide a point of contact to facilitate business and technical communications.
- ♦ Abide by applicable rules issued by the Commission.
- ♦ Implement and maintain data transmission standards as recommended within this document.

EDCs will:

- Provide customers with the Commission's list of EGSs.
- Provide customer information to EGSs when not restricted by customer.
- ♦ Exchange information electronically with EGS for enrollment, changes or discontinuance of service, etc.
- Maintain an Internet site for customer choice information for access by licensed suppliers.
- Release rate class load profiles to EGSs where available.
- ◆ Provide billing information to EGSs.
- Offer customers a one bill or two bill option.
- Provide a point of contact to facilitate business and technical communications.
- Implement and maintain data transmission standards as recommended within this

document.

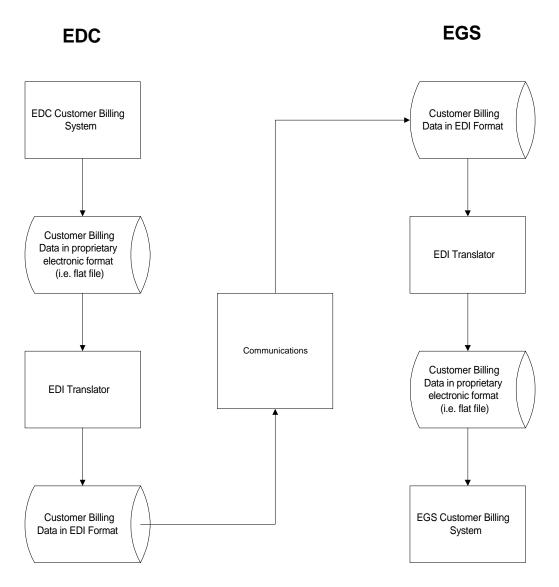
- Provide current beginning and ending meter readings to the EGS.
- Provide customer payment data to the EGS.
- Forward funds collected on behalf of the EGS to the EGS.

2. Electronic Data Interchange Concepts and UIG Standard Formats

The EDEWG was charged with establishing practical, operational, electronic standards for the transaction of business between EDCs and EGSs for the implementation of Customer Choice in Pennsylvania. After consideration of standards that are available and those being used by other states, the EDEWG, by consensus, recommends the use of ASC X12 Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Standards using a subset of Utility Industry Group (UIG) guidelines as outlined in Appendix A.

What is EDI?

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) is the computer to computer exchange of business documents in standard, machine-readable formats. The following diagram depicts a simple example of a one-way exchange using EDI for customer billing information:



The use of standard formats will allow all parties to develop the business processes and

automated systems needed to facilitate the exchange of business information in the restructured electric industry.

Proven benefits of EDI include:

- Uniform communications with trading partners
- ♦ Reduced errors, improved error detection
- Better auditability and control
- ♦ More timely communications
- Rapid exchange of business information
- Reduced paperwork and associated costs
- One time data entry
- ♦ On-line data storage
- ♦ Faster management reporting
- ♦ Reduced clerical workload

What is ASC X12?

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) chartered the Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) X12 to develop uniform standards for inter-industry electronic interchange of business transactions. ASC X12 develops, maintains, interprets, publishes and promotes the proper use of American National Electronic Data Interchange Standards. The X12 standards facilitate transactions by establishing a common, uniform business language for computers to communicate.

What is the UIG?

The Utility Industry Group (UIG) is an industry action group dedicated to the advancement of EDI within the electric, gas, and combination utility industry. The UIG encourages, promotes, and establishes implementation conventions for the use of ASC X12 standards as the recommended method of EDI, in order to promote the growth and timely implementation of EDI within the utility industry. The UIG also provides a forum for the exchange of ideas related to Electronic Commerce/EDI and its influence on the business needs of the industry.

The effectiveness of an industry's EDI program depends on how well the accepted standards support that industry's specific needs. For the electric and combination utility industry those needs are being addressed, within the ASC X12 standards, by the active involvement of the Utility Industry Group. The UIG represents the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) on the ASC X12 committee to facilitate implementation of EDI in the utility industry.

The UIG does not set standards. It participates in the ASC X12 process that sets the cross-industry standards. The UIG provides guidelines that assist utilities using these standards to benefit more fully from EDI. UIG membership is open to electric and combination utilities, their customers, suppliers and supplier group representatives.

What Transaction Sets will be used?

Transaction Set is an EDI term for a business document, such as an invoice. There are five EDI transaction sets that will be used to transact business in Pennsylvania for Customer Choice.

814 General Request, Response or Confirmation

ASC X12 definition, "This standard can be used to request actions to be performed, to respond to a request for actions to be performed or to confirm information related to actions performed."

In Pennsylvania, this transaction set will be used to communicate enrollment information in addition to customer/EGS relationship information between the EDC and the EGS. The following scenarios have been addressed:

- 1. Customer Contacts EDC to Initiate EGS Selection
- 2. Customer Contacts EGS to Initiate EGS Selection
- 3. Customer Contacts EDC to Cancel Contract with Current EGS
- 4. Customer Contacts EGS to Cancel Contract
- 5. EGS Cancels Customer Contract
- 6. Customer Contacts New EGS to Switch EGSs
- 7. Customer Contacts EDC to Switch EGSs
- 8. Customer Relocates Within the Service Territory
- 9. Customer Data Changes from EDC
- 10. Customer Data Changes from EGS
- 11. EGS Volunteers Customer
- 12. EGS Request for Historical Usage and Interval Load Data

It should be noted that the EDEWG does not recommend scenario #1, #3, or #7 be utilized. Although these direct contacts with the EDC were allowed in the Pilot (thus, we included the potential transactions) it added to customer confusion and is an area which adds complications to the process.

810 Invoice - Utility/Energy Service Provider

ASC X12 definition, "The transaction set can be used to provide for customary and established business and industry practice relative to the billing for goods and services provided."

In Pennsylvania, this transaction set will be used to communicate billing and usage information from an EDC to an EGS. The following scenarios have been addressed:

- 1. Customer Receives One Bill
- 2. Customer Receives Two Bills
- 3. Customer Finals
- 4. Additional EGS to EDC Customer Bill Line Items for Service

820 Payment Order/Remittance Advice

ASC X12 definition, "The transaction set can be used to make a payment, send a remittance advice, or make a payment and send a remittance advice. This transaction set can be an order to a financial institution to make a payment to a payee. It can also be a remittance advice identifying the detail needed to perform cash application to the payee's accounts receivable system. The remittance advice can go directly from payer to payee, through a financial institution, or through a third party agent."

In Pennsylvania, this transaction set will be used at a minimum to provide remittance information from the EDC to the EGS for payments collected or adjustments made on the EGSs behalf. The following scenarios have been addressed:

- 1. To facilitate payment reconciliation, if EDCs do not settle daily, EDC will send an EDI 820 to the EGS containing collections information by account.
- 2. EDC sends EDI 820 to EGS containing remittance/financial information and credit/credit adjustment information by account with funds transfers to EGSs defined in the EDC Supplier Tariff/Contract.

867 Product Transfer and Resale Report

ASC X12 definition, "The transaction set can be used to: (1) report information about product that has been transferred from one location to another, (2) report sales of product from one or more locations to an end customer, or (3) report sales of a product from one or more locations to an end customer, and demand beyond actual sales (lost orders). Report may be issued by either buyer or seller."

In Pennsylvania, this transaction set will be used to communicate historical usage information and meter interval data from an EDC to an EGS. The following scenarios have been addressed:

- 1. EDC provides usage history upon request to EGS
- 2. EDC provides historical interval load data upon request to EGS

248 Account Assignment/Inquiry and Service/Status

ASC X12 definition, "The transaction set can be used for two-way, multi-transactional purposes of assigning accounts for collection, reporting status inquiries and inquiry responses and to update accounts between entities."

In Pennsylvania, this transaction set will be used to notify an EGS that the EDC will no longer pursue remittance activities for the customer's outstanding EGS charges.

997 Functional Acknowledgment

This functional acknowledgment provides for verification of receipt of data and reports the extent to which the syntax complies with the standards. This, in addition to the archiving of all EDI transmissions, provides the audit trail necessary to verify receipt of all EDI transmissions by EGS and EDC. This information may be utilized to resolve customer, EDC, or EGS inquiries or disputes.

Glossary of EDI Terms

Attribute: Characteristic of data element or segment.

Mandatory (M): A data element/segment requirement designator, which indicates that the presence of a specified data element/segment is required.

Optional (O): A data element/segment requirement designator which indicates that the presence of a specified data element/segment is at the option of the sending party or is based on the mutual agreement of the interchange parties.

Conditional (X): A data element/segment requirement designator, which indicates that the presence of a specified data element is dependent on the value or presence of other data elements in the segment.

Data Element: One or more characters that represent numeric or alphanumeric fields of data. A related group of elements make up a segment.

Data Element Separator: A special character used to separate elements in a segment.

Delimiter: A special character used to separate fields of data.

Document: A transaction set.

EDI Translator: Computer software used to perform the conversion of application data to and from the X12 standard format.

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI): The computer application to computer application exchange of business information in a standard format.

EDI Standard/Format: A format for transmitting business documents between business entities in a non-proprietary environment.

Electronic Envelope: An electronic envelope consists of codes that mark the boundaries of electronic documents. The electronic envelope contains the EDI documents and sender/receiver information.

Electronic Mailbox: A term used to refer to the place where an EDI transmission is stored for pick-up or delivery within a third party service system, such as a Value Added Network (VAN).

Functional Acknowledgment: A transaction set (997) transmitted by the receiver of an EDI transmission to the sender, indicating receipt and syntactical acceptability of data transmitted according to the ASC X12 standards. The functional acknowledgment allows the receiving party to report back to the sending party any problems encountered by the syntax analyzer as the data is interpreted. It is not intended to serve as an acknowledgment of data content.

Industry Guideline: Defines the EDI environment for using conventions within an industry. It provides assistance on how to implement the X12 standard. The Utility Industry Group (UIG) establishes Industry Guidelines for the utility industry.

Interchange Control Structure: The interchange header and trailer segments envelope one or more functional groups or interchange related control segments and perform the following functions: (1) define the data element separators and the data segment terminators, (2) identify the sender and receiver, (3) provide control information for the interchange, and (4) allow for authorization and security information.

Mapping: The process of identifying the relationship of standard data elements to application data elements.

Qualifier: A data element that identifies or defines a related element, set of elements, or a segment. The qualifier contains a code taken from a list of approved codes.

Segment: A combination of related data elements in a specific sequence. A segment consists of a segment identifier, one or more data elements, each proceeded by an element separator, and a segment terminator.

Segment Identifier: A unique identifier for a segment, composed of a combination of two or three uppercase letters and digits. The segment identifier occupies the first character position of the segment.

Segment Terminator: A unique character appearing at the end of a segment to indicate the termination of the segment.

Trading Partner: The sending and/or receiving party involved in the exchange of electronic data interchange transmissions.

Transaction Set: The EDI term for a business document, such as an invoice.

Transaction Set ID: A three digit numerical representation that identifies a transaction set.

Translation Software: Software that is used to translate EDI data to a corporate proprietary format and vice versa.

Value Added Network (VAN): A service provider providing mailbox access and related services.

Version/Release: Identifies the edition of the standard being used for the generation or the interpretation of data in the X12 standard format.

3. Data Interchange Transactions

EDI Transactions

This section proposes a set of EDI transactions corresponding to the anticipated business relationships described in Section 1. It also defines the transaction rules that govern the use of the transactions. No discussion occurred in regard to any potential fees associated with the supply of any information from one party to another.

A functional acknowledgment (997) will follow all EDI transmissions. This functional acknowledgment provides for verification of receipt of data and reports the extent to which the syntax complies with the standards. This, in addition to the archiving of all EDI transmissions, provides the audit trail necessary to verify receipt of all EDI transmissions by EGS and EDC. This information may be utilized to resolve customer, EDC, or EGS inquiries or disputes.

A. Customer/EGS Agreement Scenarios:

For customer/EGS relationship information transfer, the EDI 814 transaction is utilized. Following is a list of scenarios and procedures to be followed for successful sharing of information to ensure proper recording of agreements between EGSs and Customers. A contract effective date has been included as a required data element and is critical to assure that the customer is enrolled with the last EGS with which the customer has entered into a contractual relationship. The contract effective date was added as a required data element as a result of our experiences during the first enrollment period of the Pa Pilot.

1. Customer Contacts EDC to Initiate EGS Selection

The following represents the steps necessary for an EDC to process a customer's request for service from a specific EGS when the customer initiates the request and is not currently receiving service or does not have pending service with an EGS. Pending means a customer has selected a supplier, but power has not begun to flow. If the customer currently has service, or pending service with an EGS, then refer to *Customer Contacts EDC To Switch EGSs* within this section.

a) EDC sends EDI 814 (Request - Enrollment) to EGS
 Under this standard, the customer is not actually enrolled by the EDC, the EDC is informing the EGS that the customer is requesting enrollment.

 Note: The group could not agree on whether an 814 - response should be required from the EGS to the EDC in this situation.

b) If EGS wants the customer:

Note: These steps are the same as option 2 below (Customer Contacts EGS to Initiate EGS Selection). Contacting the EGS directly is the recommended option for customer enrollment to assure timely and accurate enrollment with the least possibility of human error. This recommendation is based upon the experiences of the EDCs and EGSs in the Retail Choice Pilot Program.

◆ EGS sends EDI 814 (Request - Enrollment) to EDC

- ◆ EDC sends EDI 814 (Response Accept/Reject) to EGS
- ♦ If customer changes his/her mind within the rescission period EDC/EGS sends EDI 814 (Request Cancel) to EGS/EDC

c) If EGS does not want customer:

The group could not reach consensus on what response would be desired in this situation. Some members of the group felt that no response was necessary, others thought that an 814 - Rejection should be required from the EGS to the EDC.

Customer verification will occur in accordance with PUC regulations. If EDC rejects incoming 814 from EGS for any reason, the EDC will provide detail reasons for rejection and the EGS must resubmit the request for enrollment. The timing of these transactions must meet current PUC regulations.

At the completion of a successful enrollment a confirmation letter will be sent from the EDC to the customer of record in accordance with PUC regulations.

2. Customer Contacts EGS to Initiate EGS Selection

The following represents the steps necessary for an EDC to process a customer's request for service from a specific EGS when the EGS initiates the request electronically and the customer isn't currently receiving service or doesn't have any pending service with another EGS. For this process, the new EGS need not know if the customer has existing service with a different EGS.

- a) EGS sends EDI 814 (Request Enrollment) to EDC
- b) EDC sends EDI 814 (Response Accept/Reject) to EGS
- c) If customer changes his/her mind within the rescission period EDC/EGS sends EDI 814 (Request Cancel) to EGS/EDC

Customer verification will occur in accordance with PUC regulations. If EDC rejects incoming 814 from EGS for any reason, the EDC will provide detail reasons for rejection and the EGS must resubmit the request for enrollment. The timing of these transactions must meet current PUC regulations.

At the completion of a successful enrollment a confirmation letter will be sent from the EDC to the customer of record in accordance with PUC regulations.

3. Customer Contacts EDC to Cancel Contract with current EGS

The following represents the steps necessary for an EDC to process a customer's request to cancel service from a specific EGS when the customer initiates the request.

a) EDC sends EDI 814 (Request - Cancel) to EGS

- b) If customer changes his/her mind within the rescission period and a rescission period applies:
 - EDC sends EDI 814 (Request Reinstatement) to old EGS If no rescission period applies: Customer must initiate new contract
- c) If customer changes his/her mind after the rescission period or no rescission period applies: Customer must initiate new contract

If a rescission period applies, during the rescission period the cancellation will take effect immediately. If a rescission period does not apply, or after the rescission period, the cancellation will be treated as a customer switch.

Customer verification will occur in accordance with PUC regulations. If EDC rejects incoming 814 from EGS for any reason, the EDC will provide detail reasons for rejection and the EGS must resubmit the request for enrollment. The timing of these transactions must meet current PUC regulations.

The EDEWG recommends that the customer contacts the EGS directly (#4 below) to cancel a contract with the EGS and that this transaction (#3) be eliminated.

4. Customer Contacts EGS to Cancel Contract

The following represents the steps necessary for an EDC to process a customer's request to cancel service from a specific EGS when the EGS initiates the request.

- a) EGS sends EDI 814 (Request Cancel) to EDC
- b) EDC sends EDI 814 (Response Accept/Reject) to EGS
- c) If customer changes his/her mind within the rescission period and a rescission period applies:
 - EDC sends EDI 814 (Request Reinstatement) to old EGS If no rescission period applies: Customer must initiate new contract.
- d) If customer changes his/her mind after the rescission period or no rescission period applies: Customer must initiate new contract.
- e) If a rescission period applies, during the rescission period the cancellation will take effect immediately. If a rescission period does not apply, or after the rescission period, the cancellation will be treated as a customer switch.

Customer verification will occur in accordance with PUC regulations. If EDC rejects incoming 814 from EGS for any reason, the EDC will provide detail reasons for rejection and the EGS must resubmit the request for enrollment. The timing of these transactions must meet current PUC regulations.

5. EGS Cancels Customer Contract

The following represents the steps necessary for an EDC to process an EGSs request to cancel supply for a customer.

- a) EGS sends EDI 814 (Request Cancel) to EDC
- b) EDC sends EDI 814 (Response Accept/Reject) to EGS

6. Customer Contacts New EGS to Switch EGSs

The following represents the steps necessary for an EDC to process a customers request to switch service from an EGS when the customer is currently receiving service from another EGS, or has pending service with another EGS. In this scenario, the customer contacted the new EGS to initiate the change.

- a) New EGS sends EDI 814 (Request Enrollment) to EDC
- b) EDC sends EDI 814 (Response Accept/Reject) to New EGS
- c) EDC sends EDI 814 (Request Cancel) to Old EGS upon acceptance
- d) If customer changes his/her mind within the rescission period:
 - (i) EDC sends EDI 814 (Request Reinstatement) to Old EGS
 - (ii) EDC sends EDI 814 (Request Cancel) to New EGS
- e) If customer changes his/her mind after the rescission period:
 - i) see Customer Contacts EDC to Switch EGSs

During the rescission period the change of EGSs will be treated as a contract reinstatement and will take effect immediately. After the rescission period, the request for a change of EGS will be treated as a new customer switch and all of the steps listed in option 7 (*Customer Contacts EDC to Switch EGSs*) will have to be performed.

Customer verification will occur in accordance with PUC regulations. If EDC rejects incoming 814 from EGS for any reason, the EDC will provide detail reasons for rejection and the EGS must resubmit the request for enrollment. The timing of these transactions must meet current PUC regulations.

At the completion of a successful enrollment a confirmation letter will be sent from the EDC to the customer of record in accordance with PUC regulations

7. Customer Contacts EDC to Switch EGSs

The following represents the steps necessary for an EDC to process a customer's request to switch service from an EGS when the customer is currently receiving service from another EGS, or has pending service with another EGS. In this scenario, the customer contacted the EDC to initiate the change.

- a) EDC sends EDI 814 (Request Enrollment) to New EGS. Note: The group could not agree on whether an 814 Response should be required from the EGS to the EDC in this situation.
- b) If new EGS wants customer:
 - ♦ New EGS sends EDI 814 (Request Enrollment) to EDC
 - ◆ EDC sends EDI 814 (Response Accept/Reject) to New EGS
 - ♦ EDC sends EDI 814 (Request Cancel) to Old EGS upon acceptance
 - If customer changes his/her mind within the rescission period:
 - (i) EDC sends EDI 814 (Request Reinstatement) to Old EGS
 - (ii) EDC sends EDI 814 (Request Cancel) to New EGS
 - If customer changes his/her mind after the rescission period:
 - (i) see Customer Contacts EDC to Switch Suppliers

c) If New EGS does not want customer:

Note: The group could not agree on whether an 814 - Response should be required from the EGS to the EDC in this situation.

During the rescission period the change of EGSs will be treated as a contract reinstatement and will take effect immediately. After the rescission period, the request for a change of EGS will be treated as a new customer switch and all of the steps listed in option 7 (*Customer Contacts EDC to Switch EGSs*) will have to be performed.

Customer verification will occur in accordance with PUC regulations. If EDC rejects incoming 814 from EGS for any reason, the EDC will provide detail reasons for rejection and the EGS must resubmit the request for enrollment. The timing of these transactions must meet current PUC regulations.

At the completion of a successful enrollment a confirmation letter will be sent from the EDC to the customer of record in accordance with PUC regulations.

The EDEWG recommends that the customer contact the New EGS directly (#6 above) to switch EGSs and that this transaction (#7) be eliminated.

8. Customer Relocates within service territory

The following represents the steps necessary to transfer service from one account to another within the same service territory and transfer the existing contract to the new location.

- EDC sends EDI 810 to EGS for final bill
- The EDEWG has consensus on establishing a provision that would allow the customer, if desired, to continue seamlessly with their existing EGS at their new location. Due to process variances, a specific transaction process and timetable could not be developed. It is the group's intent to resolve this issue by July 15, 1998.

9. Customer Data Changes from EDC

The following represents the steps necessary for an EDC to notify an EGS of a change in customer information.

a) EDC sends EDI 814 (Request - Change) to EGS.

The EDEWG has asked the UIG to modify the existing EDI 814 transaction to accommodate a request to change customer information.

* Enron would prefer an EDI 814 for notification of forwarding address change in addition to the EDI 810 for a customer final.

10. Customer Data Changes from EGS

The following represents the steps necessary for an EDC to process a request to change customer information when it is initiated by the EGS.

a) EGS sends EDI 814 (Request - Change) to EDC.

The EDEWG has asked the UIG to modify the existing EDI 814 transaction to accommodate a request to change customer information.

11. EGS Volunteers Customer

The following represents the steps necessary for an EGS to inform an EDC of a customer's desire to volunteer for eligibility.

- a) EGS sends EDI 814 Request Enrollment to EDC with a maintenance code in data element ASI02 to indicate that this is a Volunteer transaction.
- b) EDC sends EDI 814 Response (Accept/Reject)

12. EGS Request for Historical Usage and Interval Load Data

The following represents the steps necessary for an EGS to request historical usage and interval load data.

- a) If EGS is enrolling or volunteering the customer, include the applicable code on the EDI 814 (Request Enrollment)
- b) If EGS has not yet established a contract with the customer the EGS sends EDI 814 (Request Historical Usage)
- c) EDC send EDI 867 (Historical Usage and Interval Load Data to EGS)

B. Customer Billing Scenarios:

For bill related information transfer, the EDI 810 transaction is utilized. Following is a list of scenarios and procedures to ensure proper sharing of billing, sales tax, and consumption information.

*Enron would prefer an EDI 814 for notification of forwarding address change in addition to the EDI 810 for a customer final.

1. Customer receives 1 bill

EDC sends EDI 810 to EGS containing monthly consumption, meter readings and billing information in conjunction with billing process. If customer is an intervalmetered customer, EDC sends EDI 867 to EGS with interval usage data.

2. Customer receives 2 bills

EDC sends EDI 810 to EGS containing monthly consumption and meter reading information in conjunction with billing process. If customer is an interval-metered customer, EDC sends EDI 867 to EGS with interval usage data.

3. Customer Finals

The following represents the steps necessary to terminate service from an EGS when a customer finals the account.

- a) Terminate contract (immediately) at final billing (see Customer Contacts EDC to Cancel Contract)
- b) EDC sends final EDI 810 with customers forwarding address to EGS

C. Customer Payment Remittance Scenarios:

- 1. EDC provides collection information by account to EGS.
- 2. EDC provides remittance/financial adjustment information and credit/credit adjustment information to EGS by account with funds transfers to EGSs defined in the EDC Supplier Tariff/Contract.

D. Historical Usage Requests by EGS:

This information will be sent using the EDI 867 to the EGS upon request and upon receipt of authorization by the customer of record. In the event that the customer has not authorized the release of this information, it will not be provided.

This information can be requested in two ways. If the EGS is enrolling or volunteering the customer, a code can be included on the EDI 814 Request - Enrollment. If the EGS has not yet established a contract with the customer, the EGS can send an EDI 814 Request - Historical Usage.

E. Historical Interval Load Data Requests by EGS:

If EGS requests historical interval usage information this information will be sent using the EDI 867 to the EGS.

F. EGS Charge Write-Off:

The following represents the steps necessary to notify an EGS that the EDC will no longer pursue remittance activities for the customers outstanding EGS charges.

EDC sends EDI 248 to EGS

G. Non-EDI Data Requirements

The following guidelines will be used regarding non-EDI information. The below listed information is to be posted on the World Wide Web and will be available in a common, standard format for each EDC to be outlined in Appendix C. The release of customer specific information will be consistent with Commission orders or tariffs.

- 1) Load Profiles posted on web

 Contains historical load information relating to a specific class of customer. Information may include typical week day and average weekend day load information by class, by month.
- 2) Eligible Customer List posted on web Contains a list of customers that are eligible to select a licensed EGS.
- 3) Meter Reading Schedules posted on web Contains lists of scheduled monthly meter reading dates.
- 4) Daily Operations Schedule posted on web *Includes holidays, non-work days, work days, etc.*

- 5) Volunteer Information posted on web
 List of customers who wish to participate in Retail Choice
- 6) Volunteer additions from EGS to EDC varied implementations List of customers who wish to participate in Retail Choice and were volunteered through an EGS.
- 7) EGS Customer Volunteer List varied Implementations
 List of Customers that the EGS wants to volunteer to participate in retail choice.
- 8) Customer synch list by EGS for specific EGS by EDC
 List of EGS customers provided by the EDC to the EGS that have requested
 service from the EGS. Includes the current status of the customer with the EGS
 as recorded by the EDC.
- 9) EGS Price design Format defined in EDC/EGS Agreement EGS price provided to the EDC for customers that are being billed by the EDC for the EGS.
- 10) Forecast Aggregate load information to be resolved as noted in Section 7
- 11) Actual Aggregate load information to be resolved as noted in Section 7
- 12) EDC rates posted on web (per EDC tariffs)
- 13) Other codes posted on web
 A variety of EDC codes are posted for general use
- 14) Capacity obligation posted on web to be resolved as noted in Section 7
- 15) Reconciliation information to be resolved as noted in Section 7
 - Energy balancing
 - Locational Marginal Pricing as currently approved for Pennsylvania, Jersey, Maryland Interconnect (PJM)
 - System use
- 16) Customer complaint/dispute information to be resolved as noted in Section 7
- 17) Billing and payment activity report

 List of all billing and payment activities by account for each EGS account used
 for reconciling customer billing and payment transactions sent during a calendar
 month.
- 18) Generic customer correspondence from EGS or EDC

 A generic copy of all customer letters and supplier letters sent to either party.

 These letters are provided to educate the EDC and EGSs customer call centers in

H. EDI Transaction Timelines

The following represents the maximum allowable time standards that an EDC or EGS has to respond to any EDI transmission.

997s within 1 business day or receipt of transmission
 810s within 1 business day from EDC billing process
 814s within 1 business day of receipt
 867s within 1 business day of data availability
 820s within 1 business day from payment receipt
 248s within 1 business day from write-off

Note: These timelines were not accepted by PECO Energy and UGI Utilities, Inc.

I. Conclusion

The EDEWG notes that the above transactions are intended to resolve most questions about the anticipated business relationships. However, there are many unusual and irregular situations that will occur in the normal course of business. In those instances where the standard transactions contained herein are not adequate to resolve a specific situation, the business and/or business contact provided by the EDC/EGS and/or the customer will be contacted directly in an effort to resolve the situation. Furthermore, it is recognized that unanticipated situations may surface as customer choice progresses. In an ongoing effort to resolve any issue that may arise, the EDEWG has committed to continue their efforts (see Section 7).

4. Electronic Transmission

Proposed Standard Approach

The EDEWG has reviewed the standards, technologies and services available for defining transaction sets and transport mechanisms. It also has considered developments taking place in California, New England states and other regions of the country. Based on this work, the EDEWG recommends that data transmission protocols be standardized so that all parties can develop the business processes and automated systems to insure an efficient and flexible business environment.

For a data transfer method to be recommended, it must be shown that it meets certain minimum criteria in the following key areas:

- Security and/or encryption of transactions and customer information
- ♦ Proof of transmission and receipt
- Positive identity of sender and recipient (non-repudiation)
- ♦ Reliability
- ◆ Data and file integrity
- ♦ Network performance and availability
- Recoverability and archiving of data

It has been established that two means of transferring the data should be mandated for use by all parties. The EDEWG recommends the implementation of both a Value Added Network (VAN) and a single Internet file transfer protocol.

Value Added Network

The EDEWG endorses use of a Value Added Network (VAN) as the default transport medium for the opening of competition. VANs provide reliable and proven technology for business data transfers, an audit trail, and they specialize in providing services in the key areas identified above.

The EDEWG recommends that the allocation of the transaction costs associated with the VAN be shared between the EGS and the EDC. This means the party sending or picking-up from their own mailbox on the VAN will pay only those transaction charges, except as recommended below.

Internet File Transfer

The EDEWG acknowledges that there are Internet transport mechanisms which are currently in use or may be available by the opening of the market and may be deemed practical to implement. The EDEWG realizes that there are financial and operational efficiencies to be gained through the use of an Internet file transfer protocol.

An extensive investigation into currently available Internet software options that meet the minimum criteria listed above resulted in two options:

- ♦ Gas Industry Standards Board's (GISB) Electronic Delivery Mechanism for Internet data transfers.
- ♦ CommerceNet Internet standard for data transfer being developed by a number of commercial software manufacturers.

For a number of technical and business reasons, the group has been unable to reach consensus on which of the two options to adopt as the standard Internet transport mechanism in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Thus, this task has been included in the list of continuing efforts of the EDEWG in Section 7.

It is the EDEWG's intent to continue the evaluation and/or testing of Internet protocol options through August 15, 1998. On or before August 15, 1998, the group will recommend a specific standard for an Internet data transfer.

Assuming an August 15, 1998 recommendation, the EDEWG recommends that the charges associated with VAN transactions (as noted above) be shared between the EGS and the EDC until January 1, 1999. After January 1, 1999, if an EDC does not have the recommended Internet solution implemented, (and the EGS does have it implemented) the EDC will pay for all related transaction VAN charges – both the EDCs and the EGSs. After January 1, 1999, if an EGS does not have the recommended Internet solution implemented (and the EDC does have it implemented) the EGS will pay for all related transaction VAN charges – both the EDCs and the EGSs.

*PECO Energy and UGI Utilities, Inc. could not commit to the allocation of VAN charges as described above.

^{*}Enron is not in consensus to delay the adoption of a common Internet standard. Further, Enron feels that during the delay and until a common Internet standard is adopted, the EDC should pay 100% of EDC costs and 100% of the EGS costs.

5. Computer Operations Considerations

Other sections of this document address essential standards for business transactions, data formats and electronic transmission of data. This section deals with the operational issues (both manual and automated) that, while primarily technical in nature, can have a significant effect on the efficiency and consistency of business processes. The EDEWG identified the following principles for computer operations:

- Processing of data must be reliable, predictable, accurate and efficient
- ♦ Transaction processing must be equitable and verifiable
- ♦ Trading partners' daily operational schedules should be accommodated
- The entire process must be designed to detect and report errors without intervention
- There must be a clear assignment of responsibility

Computer operations issues have been categorized into the following topics:

- 1. Scheduling
- 2. File Handling
- 3. Error Handling
- 4. Recovery

Scheduling

Each EDC will have daily schedules that should be accommodated to the extent possible. Operating schedules cannot be standardized because of differences in daily transaction volumes, processing techniques, technology, etc. At the same time, there should be a baseline schedule that all trading partners can rely on that does not place an undue burden on any trading partner.

The EDEWG has reviewed the daily computer operation schedules of the EDCs in order to develop a proposed baseline schedule. Section 3 reviews the maximum acceptable time frames for electronic transactions. In an effort to provide superior customer service in a deregulated environment, EDCs and EGSs have committed to beat these maximum time frames whenever feasible.

Each EDC will publish their daily operation schedule as a guideline to Suppliers. The schedule should include cycle reading and billing dates, processing "work days" and "no work" days (i.e., holidays, weekends).

File Handling

The operational guidelines pertaining to file handling are based on the recommendations elsewhere in this document concerning transaction standards and data transmission. It should be considered that changes to those recommendations could impact file handling. The EDEWG agreed that:

- ◆ EDCs will attempt to process all files sent by EGSs unless specific action is taken by the EGSs to avert processing (i.e., delete files, replace files). Refer to the Error Handling section for additional information.
- The creator of a file is responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of the contents.

- ♦ The recipient of a file has the right to reject the file in whole or in part due to format or protocol errors. In the event that a file is rejected, the recipient will provide reasons for the rejection.
- ♦ All data exchanges will be done in a pre-established manner to ensure data security and integrity (see Section 4 Electronic Transmission).
- ♦ Each file will have one recipient, and should contain transactions intended only for that recipient. A file may contain multiple transactions of the same or different type for the same customer account as permitted in the guidelines.
- ♦ Files will be processed by the recipient according to the recipient's operating schedule. EDCs will sweep the input queue at least once each business day and will process all files that are available by the cut-off and up to the time of the last sweep.
- Files will be processed in chronological order. To ensure accurate and consistent posting of individual transactions, EDCs will process the files in date/time sequence as presented on the input files.
- Errors and confirmations will be returned to EGSs at least in accordance to the timelines contained herein
- ♦ Transaction exchanges between EGSs and EDCs will generally not be limited in terms of the total number of files or transactions processed on a daily basis.

Error Handling

The EDEWG recommends the EGSs and the EDCs provide a point of contact to facilitate business and technical communications. The EGSs and the EDCs will establish appropriate procedures for problem resolution in a timely manner.

Recovery

A sound operation includes data recovery procedures that can be invoked in the event of unexpected situations that require transactions to be recreated or resubmitted for any reason. The primary purpose of these recovery procedures is to protect the originator of a file from damages related to loss of the data.

Regardless of the specific transmission method used, the originator must have the ability to recreate a file, retransmit a file, and simply omit a file from a job stream (unreadable data, invalid header, file control error, etc.). EGSs will have to coordinate with the EDCs in order to omit a file (dictated by EDC operational schedules); re-submit a file or handle other atypical conditions.

The EDEWG agreed that it is the responsibility of the originator of a file to maintain the ability to recover or recreate the data. In light of current regulations, each trading partner will retain three years of transaction files, which may be utilized for re-transmission or complaint resolution.

6. Transaction Testing Requirements

Among other requirements, a EDC and EGS must demonstrate their capability and readiness to participate in the deregulated marketplace using the electronic business transactions and standards described in this report. Any EDC or EGS that cannot meet the electronic commerce requirements of the marketplace would slow down the overall development of the deregulated marketplace.

Prior to providing power supply service to any retail Customer in the market area, an EGS must demonstrate its capability to electronically send and receive data to and from each EDC in whose service area it intends to offer competitive services. Successful EDI testing must be completed prior to the first enrollment transaction being submitted to the EDC.

The purpose of the testing is to verify that the EGS is capable of complying with the data transfer standards specified in this document and has the necessary software and hardware required to send, receive, and translate the standard transactions required to do business in the market.

Compliance testing for EGSs will be accomplished by exchanging a set of test applicable transactions (Appendix B – EDI Testing Process) with **each** EDC with which it intends to do business.

The test utilizes transactions from the EDI and Non-EDI standard formats described herein by both EDC and EGS as required.

The consensus reached on transaction testing requirements is contingent on a review and acceptance of the testing process plan to be described in Appendix B.

7. EDEWG Continuation

The EDEWG has accomplished many of its original goals; however, several important issues arose that require further consideration. The EDEWG has identified these issues and set them aside as requiring additional discussion, investigation or clarification.

The EDEWG has identified unresolved issues below and is committed to the resolution of these issues.

♦ Section 3.A.1 and 3.A.7

A decision must be made as to whether an EDI 814 – Response time frame indicating acceptance, rejection, pending, or other status from the EGS to the EDC.

♦ Section 3.

The Group needs assistance in ascertaining to what extent a rescission period applies in these instances. e.g. rescind a cancellation.

♦ Section 3.

The Group could not reach consensus on a single method of exchanging volunteer data. A decision should be made to require a single method of data exchange from the EGS to the EDC.

♦ Section 3. A. 8

Provide a method that would be seamless to the customer in the event the customer moves within a territory and wishes to continue services with the existing EGS.

♦ Section 3. A. 9 and 3. B.

Currently, an EDI 810 provides notification of a forwarding address change for a customer final bill. A decision must be made as to whether this information should also be required on an EDI 814.

♦ Section 3.G (14) and (15)

The EDEWG recommends that a group be formed to address standardization of scheduling and reconciliation. EDEWG will work with this group to help establish standard data formats and transmission methods and will include or reference these standards within our document.

♦ Section 3.G (16)

The EDEWG recommends that a group be formed to address standardization of customer complaints and disputes. EDEWG will work with this group to help establish standard data formats and transmission methods and will include or reference these standards within our document.

♦ Section 4

On or before August 15, 1998, the group will recommend a specific standard for an Internet data transfer.

Other Ongoing Issues

- Integrate ideas from new members into the standards.
- Upgrade the standards as needed (Year 2000 compliance, etc.)
- Coordinate timing for changes in any of the protocols.
- Investigate opportunities relative to a universal customer node identifier.
- ♦ Establish principles guiding the structure and conduct of the Electronic Data Exchange EDEWG.

In view of the above issues, as well as the expected issuance of the Commission's Orders and Rulemakings, the EDEWG urges the PA PUC to recognize that a continuing effort is required. It is proposed that the group continue to meet monthly throughout 1998 and into 1999, unless modifications pertinent to this group warrant more frequent meetings. In the meantime, the group will focus primarily on implementing the proposed standards contained herein.

8. Standards Change and Version Control Process

Introduction

The **Change Control** process outlined herein accomplishes the Electronic Data Exchange EDEWG's objective of establishing a change control process that accommodates changes within the Pennsylvania Electronic Data Exchange Standards.

It is anticipated that these standards will be expanded and modified to accommodate market or regulatory requirements on an ongoing basis. It is understood that **Change Control** is vital in order to allow the market to function successfully on a daily basis. Each participant will rely on established, documented and tested transactions, yet must have a process by which to modify, test and implement changes in an efficient, effective, timely, and well-coordinated manner. This change control document provides the process by which changes to the standards may be discussed, reviewed, accepted and implemented.

In order to accommodate the Change Control Process, the EDEWG in conjunction with the Pa PUC will maintain, publish, and post the standards and the ongoing modifications/enhancements to these standards on the Pa PUC website. The EDEWG will notify the designated contacts of each market participant of anticipated modifications or enhancements to the standards and of the anticipated timing thereof.

A consolidated new release of the standards will be published and electronically posted at 180-day intervals. The consolidated new release publication will encompass all changes implemented during the prior 180-day period and will be forwarded to the Pa PUC for electronic posting. It is the intent of the EDEWG to comply with the UIG guidelines as the industry and the data standards evolve.

The EDEWG has committed to meet through 1999 on a regular basis and will continue to be comprised of EDCs and EGSs or their representatives. Furthermore, the EDEWG recommends that the Pa PUC become a member of the UIG.

After September 1, 1998, when new modifications and/or enhancements are introduced to the group, the proponent of said modification/enhancement should strive to build consensus for the change among all EDEWG participants. This is important for the market to move forward, to maintain viable regional standards and compliance with the UIG national guidelines adopted by the EDEWG.

Priority Classifications

All modifications and enhancements should be classified in one of the following three categories:

Emergency Priority

Changes must be implemented within 10 days or as otherwise directed by the EDEWG.

High Priority

Changes/Enhancements implemented within 30 days, the Next Release, or as otherwise directed by the EDEWG.

Low Priority

Changes/Enhancements implemented no earlier than 90 days, Future Release, or as otherwise directed by the EDEWG.

Emergency Priority

For a change to be classified as *Emergency Priority*, the initiating party must demonstrate in writing to the EDEWG that:

- ♦ The current standards cannot accommodate Customer Choice
- ♦ If the problem is left unattended, it could have a detrimental affect to an EDEWG participant, or Customer Choice in general
- Bilateral agreements between EGSs and EDCs cannot solve the problem efficiently
- ♦ An urgent modification of the standards is required
- ♦ All EDEWG participants affected by the problem will accommodate said modification

In addition the initiating party must:

- Document in advance the scope of the modification and the affected standards
- ♦ Document why the modification should not be classified as Next Release or a Low Priority change
- ◆ Provide cost justification if appropriate
- ♦ Document the proposed amendments, provide a test plan, test cases, and standards. This documentation shall be presented to the EDEWG.

High Priority

For a change to be classified as *High Priority*, the initiating party must demonstrate in writing to the EDEWG that the suggested modifications/enhancements:

- Will better the industry as a whole
- Bilateral agreements between EGSs and EDCs cannot solve the problem efficiently
- Addresses immediate regulatory and competitive market issues and mandates
- ♦ Affects all participants.

In addition the initiating party must:

- Document in advance the scope of the modification/enhancements and the affected standards
- Document why the modification should not classified as Low Priority
- Provide cost justification if appropriate
- Document the proposed amendments, provide a test plan, test cases and standards. This documentation shall be presented to the EDEWG.

Low Priority

For a change to be classified as future release *Low Priority*, the initiating party must demonstrate in writing to the EDEWG that the suggested modifications/enhancements:

- ♦ Will meet changes as prescribed by the UIG, or
- Bilateral agreements between EGSs and EDCs cannot solve the problem, or
- Will address regulatory and competitive market issues and mandates which affects all participants and have not been prescribed by the UIG.

In addition the initiating party must:

- Document in advance, the scope of the modification/enhancements and the affected standards
- ♦ Document the proposed amendments, provide a test plan, test cases, and standards. This documentation shall be presented to the EDEWG.

Notification Requirements

Emergency Priority

The party proposing the change/modification shall notify the EDEWG chairperson(s) who will verify that the change/modification is an Emergency Priority in accordance with the Change Control Process. The EDEWG Chairperson(s) will notify by phone and/or email, both EGSs and EDCs, in as expeditious a manner as feasible.

High and Low Priority

The initiating party will notify by phone or email the EDEWG Chairperson(s) and both EGSs and EDCs, at least 30 days prior to the next scheduled EDEWG meeting. The EDEWG Chairperson(s) shall add the change/modification request to the meeting agenda.

Appendix A – EDI Record Formats (see document file AppendixA41598.DOC

Appendix B – EDI Testing Process

To be added via Group Continuation

Appendix C – Non-EDI Record Formats

To be added via Group Continuation